

For Immediate Release
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Board Approves Position of Ethics Officer

The following items came before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors during their October 30th meeting:

- During the 2001-2002 budget hearing process, the Board approved the creation of a countywide ethics program. They also approved funding for two positions to support the development, implementation and maintenance of the program. Today, the Board formally established one of the positions under the classification of Ethics Officer at an annual cost of \$86,683.

“I’m pleased to see this position has been formally established and that we continue to move closer to full implementation of the ethics program,” said Board Chairman Fred Aguiar.

- The Board voted to modify the county organizational structure and change Real Estate Services from a division of the Internal Services Group to a separate department with its own department head. It was decided that Real Estate Services should become a full-fledged department because of several policies adopted over the past year by the Board of Supervisors to strengthen the county’s business practices with respect to county real estate transactions.

“Real Estate Services has taken on an expanded role with increased involvement in oversight of real estate transactions,” commented Supervisor Aguiar. “As a result, it is fitting that it become its own separate department in order to increase service to county residents and to ensure that competitive and open processes continue unfettered.”

- Recent reports have shown that in 1998 over 40,000 dogs and nearly 25,000 cats were euthanized in private and public animal shelters in San Bernardino County. During the same time period, only 6,000 dogs and 3,000 cats were adopted. For every one hundred animals euthanized, only fifteen were adopted. Today, in response to this problem, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$30,000 contract with the Humane Society of the San Bernardino

Valley, Inc. to provide a mobile spay/neuter clinic. One of the reasons low-income pet owners do not have their pets sterilized is because they lack transportation to the clinics that provide these services. The mobile spay/neuter clinic will be located in various low-income communities in order to reduce the excessive stray dog and cat issues in these areas, including animal bites and animals hit by vehicles.

“This mobile clinic should help to greatly alleviate the stray animal problems being experienced in several neighborhoods throughout the county,” stated Aguiar.

- Geoffrey Vanden Heuvel, a resident of Chino, was appointed in lieu of election to the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Division 7. His term will expire on December 5, 2005.

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